

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A key performance indicator system comprising:
a client device user interface component;
a processor component adapted to receive KPI identification information from the interface component, retrieve KPI information from one or more data stores, generate a result document, and transfer the result document back to the interface component.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor component generates a KPI document component that identifies KPIs to be retrieved based on identification information received from the interface component.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the KPI document includes data store connection information and KPI retrieval information.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the KPI retrieval information includes a filter component specifying a subset of data to be utilized to generate a KPI metric.
5. The system of claim 3, wherein the KPI document is encoded as an XML document.
6. The system of claim 1; wherein the result document includes KPI values and information regarding KPI graphics.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the result document is an XML document.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor component is executed by a computer or server remotely located from the client device.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the client device is one of a mobile phone and a personal digital assistant.
10. The system of claim 1, wherein the data store is a relational database.
11. The system of claim 1, wherein the data store is multidimensional OLAP database.
12. A key performance indicator system comprising:
 - means for receiving or retrieving information from a client device and creating a KPI document; and
 - means for utilizing the KPI document to query one or more data stores, generating a result document from the query results and transmitting the result document back to the client device.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the client device is remote from the one or more data stores.
14. A method for retrieving key performance indicators (KPIs) comprising:
 - receiving data from a client device specifying KPIs of interest;
 - generating a KPI document from the received data;
 - querying one or more data stores utilizing data provided in the KPI document; and
 - generating a result document from the query results.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising retrieving expressions from a data store and utilizing the expression to query the data store.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the KPI document comprises a list of KPIs in an XML format.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the KPI document comprises data concerning data store connections and KPI retrieval information.
18. The method of claim 14, wherein the KPI document is generated by a component remote from the client device.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the component that generates the KPI component is executed by a server.
20. The method of claim 14, wherein the result document comprises KPI values specified in an XML format.
21. The method of claim 14, further comprising transferring the result document to the client device.
22. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 14.
23. A performance metric methodology comprising:
 - receiving data specifying performance indicators of interest;
 - querying at least one remote data store for metric data; and
 - generating a result document containing metric data for a plurality of columns related to one or more performance indicators.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein the data regarding performance indicators is specified in a KPI document.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the KPI document is generated by a client device.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the KPI document is utilized to retrieve expressions for generating performance indicator metrics.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the KPI document specifies database connection information.
28. The method of claim 23, wherein the result document is specified utilizing XML.
29. The method of claim 23, further comprising transmitting the result document to a client application.
30. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 23.